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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

HENRICSON et al

Atty. Ref.: **30-548**

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

Filed: **May 15, 2001**

Examiner:

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING PULP**

* * * * *

May 15, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

1 bcc → 4. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that only the part of the filtrate that is being used as washing liquid is ~~treated with~~ an oxidizing chemical.

2 bcc → 7. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said filtrate is obtained from a washing stage of said multi-stage drum filter and treated with an oxidizing chemical before it is returned back to another washing stage of said multi-stage drum filter to be used as washing liquid.

3 bcc → 16. (Amended) Method according to claim 14, characterized in that said oxygen stage comprises one or several steps, whereby the steps are counted according to the mixing and chemical dosing.

4 bcc → 27. (Amended) Apparatus for treating chemical pulp, which apparatus comprises at least a digester for cellulose fibrous material, so-called brown stock washing devices, devices following the wash of the pulp for delignifying/bleaching the pulp in the oxygen stage and devices for washing the pulp after the oxygen stage and further filtrate lines (FL) for leading washing filtrates countercurrently to preceding washers to be used as